



THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 19, 2019

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Mayor Kawakami meets with federal agencies and participates in Hawai'i on the Hill

LĪHU'E – Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami traveled to Washington, D.C., from June 9 through June 12 and met with federal agencies and the Congressional Delegation to discuss priorities for the County of Kaua'i. In addition, Mayor Kawakami participated in the sixth annual Hawai'i on the Hill, an event hosted by the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono.

"I would like to thank the congressional delegation and agency officials for listening to Kaua'i's priorities and working with us to achieve our goals. I especially want to thank those who have helped and continue to help with disaster recovery," Mayor Kawakami said.

Mayor Kawakami attended meetings promoting the goals for the county, focusing on disaster recovery and resilience, planning for the island's future and safety, economic development, and transportation improvements.

The mayor met with White House officials to discuss strategies to coordinate successful projects within the County's two opportunity zones, discuss resiliency, and provide an update on the county's recovery efforts following the April 2018 flooding. Officials helped equip Mayor Kawakami with innovative ideas to cultivate successful projects within opportunity zones. The mayor also met with Under Secretary of the Department of Transportation for Policy Derek Kan and staff to discuss the progress of the Līhu'e Town Core Revitalization and Mobility Project and review the County's transportation projects and goals.



Furthermore, Mayor Kawakami had the pleasure of meeting with the Congressional delegation to update them on the County's successes, priorities, disaster recovery process, and to thank them and their staff for continued support and dedication to the County of Kaua'i. Mayor Kawakami met with Department of Housing and Urban Development staff to discuss disaster recovery funds slated for Kaua'i. The Mayor also met with Federal Emergency Management Administration staff to identify grants and opportunities related to flooding and community resiliency.

This week was an opportunity for Mayor Kawakami to represent the County of Kaua'i and engage with officials in Washington as well as meeting with top agency and congressional staff to promote Kaua'i's goals. The mayor looks forward to following up with those he met and hopes to welcome them to the County of Kaua'i in the near future.

In addition, the sixth annual Hawai'i on the Hill included events focused on engaging with policymakers and showcasing Hawaiian culture, local businesses, and products.

"Hawai'i on the Hill continues to be an important event to promote Hawai'i businesses, interests, and culture in Washington, DC. I want to thank the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce and Senator Mazie Hirono for organizing such a productive and meaningful event," Mayor Kawakami said.



Photo caption: County of Kaua'i officials met with White House officials to discuss strategies to coordinate successful projects within the County's two opportunity zones, discuss resiliency and provide an update on the County's recovery efforts following the April 2018 flooding. (From left to right) County of Kaua'i Managing Director Mike Dahilig; Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, for the White House William Crozer; Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami; Director of the Office of Economic Development Robbie Melton; Environmental Engineer for the EPA, John Ferris; and Rear Admiral Deputy Director Resources and Acquisitions, J8 Force Structure for the DOD, Rear Admiral Jim Aiken.



Photo caption: Mayor Kawakami and his staff also met with Federal Emergency Management Administration staff to identify grants and opportunities related to flooding and community resiliency. Officials include Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration Paul Huang (rear); Public Assistance Branch Chief Denise Yandle; Hazard Mitigation Specialist Brian Willsey; Director of the Office of Economic Development Robbie Melton; Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami; Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist Jacob Spell; Managing Director Mike Dahilig; and FEMA staff.



Photo caption: Mayor Kawakami and his administration met with Department of Housing and Urban Development staff to discuss disaster recovery funds slated for Kaua'i. (From left to right) Director of Economic Development Robbie Melton; Managing Director Mike Dahilig; Intergovernmental Relations Intern Conner Funderburk; Senior Advisor for the Office of Community Planning and Development Jocklynn Keville; Director of Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division Tennille Parker; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental Relations Mike Kelly; and Congressional Relations Specialist Zach Barnes.



Photo caption: Mayor Kawakami greets Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) at Hawai'i on the Hill.

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